

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

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KENT JONES,

Plaintiff,

v.

JULIE TUDOR, et. al.,

Defendants,

Civil Action No. 2:08-CV-10765

HONORABLE BERNARD A. FRIEDMAN
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
HONORABLE R. STEVEN WHALEN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**OPINION AND ORDER TRANSFERRING PLAINTIFF'S CIVIL RIGHTS
COMPLAINT TO THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN**

Kent Jones, ("plaintiff"), presently confined at the Mound Correctional Facility in Detroit, Michigan, has filed a civil rights complaint in this district against the defendants pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. In his complaint, plaintiff claims that his constitutional rights were violated by the defendants while he was incarcerated at the Deerfield Correctional Facility and the Hiawatha Correctional Facility. For the reasons stated below, the Court will transfer this matter to the Western District of Michigan for further proceedings.

I. DISCUSSION

In the present case, all of the actions complained of by plaintiff took place either at the Deerfield Correctional Facility in Ionia, Michigan, or the Hiawatha Correctional Facility in Kincheloe, Michigan, both of which are located in the Western District of Michigan. The defendants named in the complaint reside in the Western District of Michigan.

Venue is in the judicial district where either all defendants reside or where the claim arose. *Al-Muhaymin v. Jones*, 895 F. 2d 1147, 1148 (6th Cir. 1990); 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b). For the convenience of parties and witnesses, in the interest of justice, a district court may transfer any civil action to any other district or division where the action might have been brought. See *United States v. P.J. Dick, Inc.*, 79 F. Supp. 2d 803, 805-06 (E.D. Mich. 2000)(Gadola, J.); 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a). Venue of a lawsuit may be transferred *sua sponte* for the convenience of parties or witnesses. *Sadighi v. Daghighfekr*, 36 F. Supp. 2d 267, 278 (D.S.C. 1999).

The factors that guide a district court's discretion in deciding whether to transfer a case include: (1) the convenience of the witnesses; (2) the location of relevant documents and the relative ease of access to sources of proof; (3) the convenience of the parties; (4) the locus of the operative facts; (5) the availability of process to compel the attendance of unwilling witnesses; (6) the relative means of the parties; (7) the forum's familiarity with governing law; (8) the weight accorded the plaintiff's choice of forum; and (9) trial efficiency and interests of justice, based upon the totality of the circumstances. *Overland, Inc. v. Taylor*, 79 F. Supp. 2d 809, 811 (E.D. Mich. 2000)(Gadola, J.).

The Court concludes that both for the convenience of the parties and witnesses, as well as in the interests of justice, the present matter must be transferred to the Western District of Michigan. Although plaintiff is currently incarcerated at the Mound Correctional Facility, which is located in this district, venue is more appropriate in the Western District of Michigan, because all of the "operative facts" in this case took place at either the Deerfield or Hiawatha Correctional Facilities, both of which are located in

the Western District of Michigan. See *Pierce v. Coughlin*, 806 F. Supp. 426, 428 (S.D.N.Y. 1992). Because the Deerfield and Hiawatha Correctional Facilities were the primary situs of the material events in plaintiff's civil rights lawsuit, plaintiff's choice of forum has little weight in the Court's determination. See *Boyd v. Snyder*, 44 F. Supp. 2d 966, 971 (N.D. Ill. 1999). Finally, the witnesses and files necessary to prosecute these claims are located in the Western District of Michigan. For these reasons, transfer of this action to the Western District would be proper. See *Welch v. Kelly*, 882 F. Supp. 177, 180 (D.D.C. 1995). Accordingly, this matter will be transferred to the Western District of Michigan for further proceedings.

II. ORDER

Accordingly, the Court **ORDERS** the Clerk of the Court to transfer this case to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a).



S/R. Steven Whalen
R. STEVEN WHALEN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Dated: February 27, 2008

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the foregoing order was served on the attorneys and/or parties of record by electronic means or U.S. Mail on February 27, 2008.

S/G. Wilson
Judicial Assistant